



## WEATHER FORECAST

**Philippines:** Some regions will have heavy squalls and be under watch for flooding, but no major rain is expected. To the south, squalls will have some scattered showers and be under watch for flooding. To the north, squalls will have some scattered showers and be under watch for flooding. To the south, squalls will have some scattered showers and be under watch for flooding. To the north, squalls will have some scattered showers and be under watch for flooding.

# Second FRONT PAGE

Read our second front page on the 2007 election on P2 (Special)

Region	Forecast	Region	Forecast
Ilocos	Cloudy	Visayas	Cloudy
II	Cloudy	Mindanao	Cloudy
III	Cloudy		
IV	Cloudy		
V	Cloudy		
VI	Cloudy		
VII	Cloudy		
VIII	Cloudy		
IX	Cloudy		
X	Cloudy		
XI	Cloudy		
XII	Cloudy		

## IMPEACHMENT TRIAL

# GMA boosts legal defense team

By El C. Cabanogon

**PRESIDENT** Macapagal-Arroyo has tapped two of the most brilliant corporate lawyers in the country to lead her legal defense team in what has been billed the most important trial of her political career.

The appointment of lawyers Carlos G. Platon and Isolina Lando to the President's defense team in the impeachment trial of the President.

Platon and Lando were senior partners in the Platon and Lando Law Office which is based in the Philippines. Platon and Lando were senior partners in the Platon and Lando Law Office which is based in the Philippines. Platon and Lando were senior partners in the Platon and Lando Law Office which is based in the Philippines.

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# SALE

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# AUGUST 13 - SEPTEMBER 13

# THE LANDMARK

## NHA denies hand in purchase of relocation sites

**THE NATIONAL** housing authority denies involvement in the purchase of relocation sites for the government's ongoing North Luzon project.

The NHA's housing authority denies involvement in the purchase of relocation sites for the government's ongoing North Luzon project. The NHA's housing authority denies involvement in the purchase of relocation sites for the government's ongoing North Luzon project.

# Garcillano sighted recently in Malaysia, says NBI chief

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

STRICK in the world is former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano?

The question becomes relevant because the elusive alleged "phone pal" of President Macapagal-Arroyo may have spent one of the country's shaves and is somewhere out there in the world.

National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wypoon said Malasantang reporters yesterday Garcillano was sighted recently in Lahar, Malaysia. Previous reports had placed him at Kota Kinabalu, also in Malaysia, in Singapore and in London.

He has become the focus of a global

search after the NBI hooked up with the Interpol, or International Criminal Police Organization, to make phoning down his whereabouts easier.

"The chief of Interpol at the NBI has already communicated with the Interpol main office in Lyon, France to aid us in our search for Commissioner Garcillano just in case he went to places outside the Philippines," said Wypoon.

Wypoon said the NBI had not discounted the possibility that Garcillano was still in the country.

"We have been getting information that he was seen in Batam and Capang de Oro. We continue to follow these leads. Simply put, we are cooperating with Congress to find Commissioner Garcillano," he said.

Congress has issued a warrant for Garcillano's arrest after his agents failed to serve him a subpoena to testify before the House of Representatives, which is looking into alleged election irregularities involving the President.

Garcillano has made himself scarce following eruption of the "Yello Gar" scandal two months ago. That he and his wife have not been located despite efforts by local authorities has fueled speculation that Malasantang may be harboring Garcillano to prevent the issuance of testimony damaging to Ms. Arroyo.

Malasantang has denied that it has Garcillano under custody but it also stated that it will not exert extra effort to find him.

## 'Shabu' use rising among urban workers

NAGOA. Drug use jumped by more than two-thirds over the past five years with young urban workers increasingly taking amphetamines and marijuana, the government said yesterday.

The survey of households in 2004 found there were 67 million legal drug users in the country, about two million of whom were either young professionals or mid-income wage earners, the Labor Department said at a conference on drug use.

Labor Undersecretary Maureen Torres said there was an alarming increase from earlier studies which found there were 1.7 million drug abusers in 1996, rising to four million in 1999.

"The average age of a Filipino drug abuser is 25 years old, employed, lives in urban areas and has an average monthly income of P4,726," the study said.

Methamphetamine, hydrochloride, popularly known as "shabu," was the most widely abused drug, followed by marijuana, the department added.











## 75-KPH WINDS

'Huaning' heads for China  
but storm signals still up

By Norman Bordadora

TROPICAL storm "Huaning" has developed winds as strong as 75 kph near the center and gustiness of 90 kph as it continues to move towards the southern coast of China.

As of 4 p.m. yesterday, Huaning was spotted 220 km northwest of Laoag City. It is expected to be 540 km northwest of Laoag City this afternoon.

## Storm signals

Despite this, Pagasa has kept most Ilocos provinces still under Storm Signal No. 2 today. Storm Signal No. 1 remains hoisted over Apayao, Abra, Cagayan and the Batanes group of islands, Isabela, Kalinga, Mountain Province, Ifugao, Nueva Vizcaya, Pangasinan, Benguet and La Union.

All storm signals elsewhere have been lowered.

## Monsoon rains

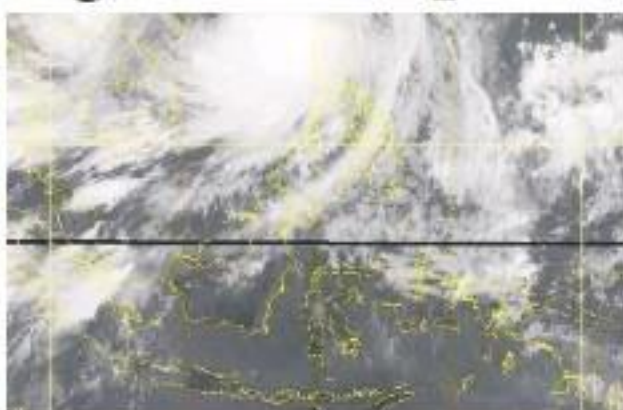
Pagasa said Huaning would continue to induce the southwest monsoon which in turn would cause rains over Luzon and the Visayas, particularly in the western sections.

The weather bureau has warned residents in low-lying and coastal areas and people living near mountain slopes to be on the lookout for possible flash floods and landslides.

## Rough seas

Pagasa said sea areas west of Luzon and Western Visayas would have occasional rains packing winds of 30 kph to 55 kph. Sea conditions will be moderate to rough with wave heights of 1.25 to four meters.

It advised fishing boats and other small sea craft not to venture out into the sea, in the western ar-



TROPICAL storm "Huaning" churns toward the southern coast of China after pounding Northern Luzon.

SOURCE: PAGASA

reas of Luzon and Visayas.

## Stormy weather

It said the Ilocos region would have stormy weather and its coastal waters would be rough to very rough. The rest of Northern Luzon will have rains and occasional gusty winds and its coastal waters will be moderate to rough.

The rest of Luzon and Western Visayas, including Metro Manila, will experience monsoon rains, according to Pagasa. Other areas of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers and thunderstorms.

## Road accident

"Huaning" spawned heavy rains and strong winds in Cavite, Batangas and Laguna areas, which caused a minor accident and prevented almost a hundred priests

from celebrating priests day.

In Tagaytay City, the foggy and occasional almost zero visibility of highways caused the driver of an Isuzu elf truck to lose control and ram into an island railing, hitting another vehicle travelling in the opposite direction. The mishap occurred in Barangay Mendez about 8 a.m. yesterday. The passengers emerged from the accident with only slight injuries.

## Priests' day rained out

The bad weather also prevented some one hundred priests from Laguna from attending the priests day scheduled at a beach resort in Nasugbu, Batangas, after undergoing a spiritual retreat at the Don Bosco Retreat Center in Barulao, Batangas.

This was supposed to cap their 5-day annual retreat. Romulo O. Ponte, *PDF Southern Luzon Bureau*



## STILL HOT IN THE RAIN

Heavy rains fail to dampen the spirits of these two protesters in front of the Lapanto Building in Makati City Friday.

The protesters voice fears that a labor dispute at Lapanto mining could turn bloody with the alleged heavy presence of the military and police at the picket line.

ICH ZUMORA

GMA orders  
review of kids  
in adult jails

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the justice department Friday to review the cases of thousands of child offenders believed to be in adult jails, as highlighted in CNN reports this week.

Ms Arroyo said she had told Justice Secretary Raul Gonzales "to look into these cases of minors in prison that has come out in international television." "We cannot say we can't do anything about this. We can do something," President Arroyo said at a meeting of an anti-crime organization. "We must give more justice to our minor offenders and juvenile delinquents. Our treatment of them must follow our laws and the laws of the world."

Ms Arroyo said young offenders should be kept in special welfare homes for children rather than be jailed with "hardened adult criminals" in ordinary prisons, and the justice department should also look into releasing elderly prisoners who have been jailed for lengthy periods to ease pressure on congested prisons.

Philippine law says offenders below the age of 18 should be turned over to the Social Welfare Department or kept in the custody of their parents.

Sen. Ralph Recto said in May however there were about 2,100 children in Philippine jails; the Juvenile Justice Network, a non-government organization, estimates there are as many as 54,000. Gonzales said he did not know how many children were in prison but public attorneys were working to get them out.

AFP

MINING INCENTIVE  
Australia pledges \$25M  
to aid RP land reform

SYDNEY—Australia pledged A\$34 million (\$25.5 million) on Friday to help the Philippines improve its unhelpful land administration system and provide greater incentive for potential investors in key areas like mining.

The money to be paid over five years, was offered at the inaugural meeting of trade and foreign ministers from the two countries, who share annual two-way trade of about A\$1.9 billion, roughly equally.

"A significant part of the discussions today focused on the desire by the Philippine government for Australian mining interests to take a greater role in the development of the mining and resources sector in the Philippines," Australian Trade Minister Mark Vaile told reporters after the meeting.

Vaile said Australia's miners could help redress an investment imbalance which currently sits heavily in favor of the Philippines, which he said had about A\$4 billion in Australian investments while only about A\$400 million in investments flows from Australia to the Philippines.

The Philippine government expects local and foreign mining firms to pump about \$6 billion into 23 priority projects over the next six years.

Those projects include the Rapu-Rapu polymetallic project in Albay, in which Australia's Lafayette Mining Ltd. has a 74 percent stake and which

began production this year.

Vaile said the government of President Macapagal-Arroyo had been trying to make investment in mining more attractive and an obvious target had been the expertise of the Australian mining sector.

"One of the issues to be addressed is the land tenure system," Vaile said.

"Our industry has deployed capital and resources into other parts of Southeast Asia and we would like to work with them ... to create an environment that is more attractive to that investment," he said.

Potential investment is made difficult by unclear land title and ownership rights. In addition, some of the richest deposits of gold, copper and other minerals are in areas of insurgency by Muslim and communist guerrillas.

Land reform efforts over the years have run up against resistance from powerful families who own large plantations and been complicated by government efforts to resurrect the mining sector after years of neglect.

Rapu-Rapu, the first new foreign-funded mine in the Philippines since 1968, is expected to produce 3,900 tons of zinc this year and 14,500 tons in 2006, as well as 10,500 tons of copper in 2006, up from 4,000 tons this year.

It is also expected to yield an average of 50,000 ounces of gold per year.

Reuters

























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## More than meets the mouth

A wooden tray filled with several baked oysters. Each oyster is topped with a generous amount of melted, golden-brown cheese. The oysters are arranged neatly on the tray.

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GTCHB Insurance ready to conquer Australia. (From left) David and Hazel Jeffrey Reynolds, Eugene Owens and Robert Catling.

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### Announcements

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